

DECEMBER

Magic Lantern Society

NEWS 2025



Be Sure to LOOK for those Buttons and
roll-over effects

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Click on Slide to see the Magic



The Magic Lantern Calendar –December 2025

Events

Dec. 7, 2025, **The Magic Lantern Show**, in conjunction with the exhibition Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance, Dawn Elliott and Joel Schlemowitz present a program of magic lantern entertainments, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35 Ave., Astoria NY 11106.

Dec. 8, 2025, **Victorian Christmas**, featuring slides from the 19th and 20th century alongside modern slides, with Jeremy and Carolyn Brooker, Florence Nightingale Museum, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EP, England.

Dec. 13, 2025, **Hands-on History: Children's Magic Lantern Show**, a unique afternoon of play with Victorian replica and original toys and children's magic lantern show performances, King Manor Museum, 150-03 Jamaica Avenue, Queens, NY 11432.

Dec. 15, 2025, **Christmas Magic Lantern Show**, featuring Dr. Nick Hiley, Salvation Army Hall, Alma Parade, Scarborough YO11 1SJ, U.K. Through 2025, Project Space Residency, featuring Melissa Ferrari, Visual Studies Workshop, 31 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.

Jan. 25, 2026, **2026 Annual General Meeting**, Magic Lantern Society (UK), Musical Museum, Brentford, London, England.

Apr. 23-26, 2026, **21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada**, Toronto, CA. Save the Date – more information coming soon!

continued next page

Calendar –continued

Exhibits

Through Dec. 28, 2026, **Im Zauber Des Lichts, Bilderwelten der Laterna Magica**, an overview of children's slides production in Germany with examples from the beginnings in the 1780s to the 1930s, with children's lanterns from the same period, with their boxes, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 61267 Neu-Anspach, Germany.

Through Dec. 29, 2025, **Im Zauber des Lichts – Bildrewelten der Laterna Magica: Magic Lantern and Toy Lantern Slide exhibition**, Freilichtmuseum Hessenpark, Laubweg 5, 6126 Neu-Anspach/Taunus, Germany.

Through Mar. 22, 2026, **Dissolving Views: Magic Lantern Performance**, presenting a rare triunial from the Museum collection and dissolving view slide sets and a video by filmmaker/lanternist Joel Schlemowitz, Museum of the Moving Image, 36-01 35th Ave, Astoria NY 11106.

Online

Magic Lantern Research Group, Learn about, collaborate on academic research. Monthly on Zoom, Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Magic Lantern Performing Group, Improve your skills every other Wednesday on Zoom. Contact Terry Borton: tborton@magiclanternshows.com

De Luikerwaal Dutch Virtual Museum, <https://www.luikerwaal.com/> Magic lantern history, pictures, stories.

Lucerna – the Magic Lantern Web Resource, online database collaboration covering all aspects of magic lanterns. <http://lucerna.exeter.ac.uk/>

To add your magic lantern show, exhibition, or other event to our calendar, or to list your show for potential bookings, drop a line to briandrogers@gmail.com.

**Conference
Update!**

21st International Convention of the Magic Lantern Society of the US and Canada

April 23-26th, 2026 - Toronto, Canada.

**The Schulich Conference Hotel is filling up!
We only have a limited number of rooms in
our block, so we recommend booking early!**

To reserve accommodations at the Executive Learning Centre Conference Hotel, Schulich School of Business, please contact the reservations team:

- Email: reservations@schulich.yorku.ca
- Phone: 416-650-8300 (front desk)
- Address: 56 Fine Arts Rd, North York, ON M3J 1P3
- Important Booking Details:
- Block ID: 871212
- Block Name: Magic Lantern Society Conference
- Conference Dates: April 23-26th, 2026
- Reservation Deadline: March 21, 2026
- \$189 CAD per night/at current exchange rate \$135 USD (plus double occupancy fee, 20 CAD and HST, 13%)
- Primary room type: Queen bed
- The hotel also has a limited number of rooms with King beds (only 10-15 rooms). These King rooms are offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and guests may request them when selecting double occupancy. In this case, please try to book early!
- A select number of rooms are also available on the shoulder dates two days before and two days after the convention date.
- Hotel Amenities: free wifi, self-parking/parking garage, 24 hour concierge, desk and TV, a restaurant (a la carte breakfast, lunch and dinner - limited hours), cafe, and a small lounge.
- **Hotel booking tip:** If you call the front desk and no one answers, please leave a message and the staff will return to your call.

After March 21 2026, any unused rooms will be released back into general inventory and will be subject to availability.



Nearby Airports and Public Transportation

- Lester Pearson International Airport [YYZ] (8.50 miles southwest)
- Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport [(10 miles southeast)
- Several airlines (Porter Airlines, Air Canada, and Air Transat) offer direct flights from Boston, New York City, Washington D.C., Chicago, Dallas, Houston, New Orleans, Seattle, Los Angeles and other cities to either Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport or Pearson International Airport
- Six complimentary shuttle buses take passengers from Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport to Toronto's Union Station, with connections to public and regional transit. These shuttles operate every 15 minutes and are equipped with free on-board Wi-Fi.
- **Public transportation to the Schulich hotel from Pearson Airport:** From Toronto Pearson Airport (YYZ), take the UP (Union Pearson) Express to Union Station, then transfer to the TTC Line 1 subway to York University station. It is a short 8 min. walk from the York University subway station to the Schulich hotel.
- **Public transportation to Schulich from Union Station:** Take the TTC Line 1 subway directly to York University station. It is a short 8 min. walk from the York University subway station to the Schulich hotel.

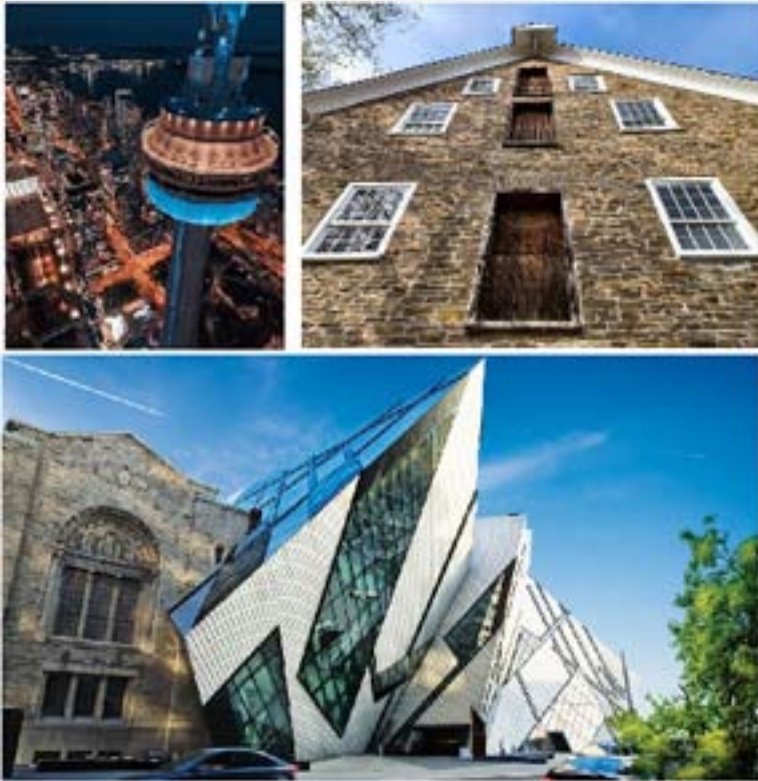


- The Schulich hotel is located on the campus of York University in North York, approximately 15 km (9.3 miles) from Toronto Pearson International Airport (YYZ). The hotel is about a 20-minute drive from Toronto Pearson International Airport. Taxi, Uber, or Lyft fare from Pearson airport to the Schulich hotel typically costs between \$40 and \$60 CAD, with the exact fare depending on traffic and the specific service used.
- **The Schulich hotel is a short walk to the York University subway station, Line 1 Yonge-University.** Trains run every 2-3 minutes during rush hour M-F (from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.). It is a short 30min subway ride from the York University subway station to the downtown Toronto Museum Station stop. It is approximately 40 minutes to Union Station. It is a 20 minute scenic walk from the hotel to the Village at Black Creek. We will also try to organize ride shares.

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Conference Update continued

- The Schulich Executive Learning Center's façade is clad in a continuous undulating ribbon of cut limestone, glass, and heavy-bronze details. The School of Business won the 2007 Ontario Association of Architects Design Excellence Award and the 2006 Governor General's Medal in Architecture.



**Upper Left: CN Tower, Toronto; Upper Right: Kolbins Mill, Village at Black Creek
Lower Image: Royal Ontario Museum**

Toronto Sightseeing:

Royal Ontario Museum (Museum Station, Line 1)
Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art (Museum Station, Line 1)
Art Gallery of Ontario (St. Patrick Station, Line 1)
Aga Khan Museum (Line 5 - from Eglinton Station, take the 34C Eglinton East bus to Wynford Drive at Garamond Court, then walk to the museum)
CN Tower (Union Station)
GO Train to Niagara Falls [A round trip on the GO train from Toronto to Niagara Falls can cost around \$32 for a 1-day combo ticket (which includes 24 hours of WEGO bus access)]

Our primary conference venue: The Village at Black Creek, an open-air heritage museum overlooking Black Creek, a tributary of the Humber River. Experience Ontario's rich heritage firsthand through historical reenactments, immersive experiences and authentic period buildings. The recreated 1860s village features 40 historic buildings, heirloom gardens and a collection of 50,000 artefacts representing the development of the Toronto region in the 19th century.

Thursday April 23 rd - Early set up for performers, one or two workshops at the Village, and an optional Village tour (Victorian Secrets Tour). We might have an event at York University Thursday night, budget permitting.

Friday April 24 th - Full day of programming (talks, shows and workshops) followed by a evening reception at the Village at Black Creek.

Saturday April 25 th – Full day of programming (talks, shows and workshops) at the Village at Black Creek. Convention dinner and a Grand Magic Lantern Show finale at the Wimot Township Hall built in 1858.

Sunday April 26 th – Society auction and business meeting at the Schulich hotel: 9-12pm. On Sunday afternoon we are also looking into the possibility of either driving to Port Hope for a tour of an atmospheric movie theater with a Brenograph cloud machine projector or driving to Kinmount, Ontario to visit the Highlands cinema museum.



Well Done YouTube Presentation

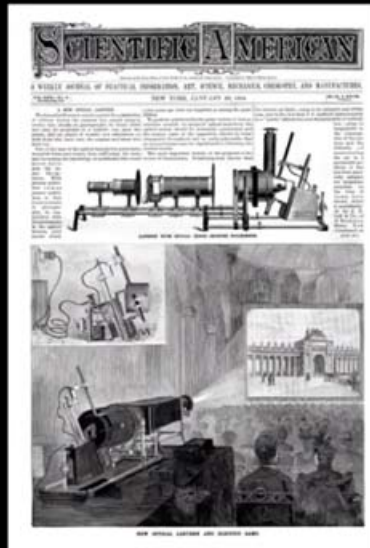
From



An Illuminating History of the Magic Lantern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SdbsrzERfZ0&t=285s>

The cover of *Scientific American* from January 20, 1894, depicting a magic lantern and audience watching a magic lantern show



Hear about the history of these fascinating devices and find out why it's not always easy to separate popular entertainment from education—today or in the past.

Sarah Pickman is a sixth-year PhD candidate in the Yale History of Science and Medicine Program. Her research on the material culture of British and American exploration in the 19th and early 20th centuries focuses on expeditions to extreme environments, especially the Arctic and Antarctica. Her dissertation examines gear developed for these

Before PowerPoint, slide projectors, and motion pictures, there was the magic lantern. From the late 17th through the early 20th centuries, the bright, colorful (and sometimes spooky) images displayed by these early projectors entertained

packed theaters and family parlors. But magic lanterns were also teaching tools.

We join Peabody Graduate Research Assistant Sarah Pickman for a look at the magic lantern slides made for science education in the Museum's collections.

expeditions, as well as how images and descriptions of exploration were used in advertising, literature, and other mass media.

What To Do With Magic Lantern Slides

From Randall Styx

styx.sheboygan@gmail.com

I am trying to determine what best to do with from 200 to 300 glass magic lantern slides. They all seem to date from the Spanish American War (1898) through about 1911 or 1912. Some are of the Great White Fleet, some from the Philippines, some from Cuba. Many are song slides, but I don't have a complete set for any one song. Some are of Yellowstone; some of Florida. Some are black & white and some appear to have been hand tinted for color. A few chronicle the first flight from Chicago to St. Louis. (Although one of these appears to have been doctored in the darkroom before it was mounted.)

Some of the slides are cracked or broken, though most are intact. Most of these were commercially produced by places in Chicago or New York.

Some appear to have been directly from a camera negative, while others appear to be copies of half tone prints.

I also have what is left of a lantern that originally was lit by kerosene but was converted very long ago to electricity. The lenses are still present, but the body of the lantern is so rusted that I fear it is beyond

restoration. The mechanism for inserting slides is missing.

The history of all this is a mystery. My paternal grandfather was a printer in Chicago and they came to me from him, except that it was first a long time in our attic and then in a humid basement while I was very young. Nothing is in pristine condition. The cloth covered wooden slide boxes (5) are in various states of condition.

My children have not expressed interest in them, but I am sure someone would have some interest. At 78, I'm trying to pare down on all the stuff I have, but I wouldn't want to just send it all to the junk pile if someone would appreciate having it. I don't need to realize full value for it, but something in return would be nice.

I live in Wisconsin, far from the centers of your society in the Pacific Northwest and the East Coast.

Any ideas or suggestions?

Rand Styx

Please send ideas and suggestions to Randall
styx.sheboygan@gmail.com



Toy Lantern Slide Question in November Epub

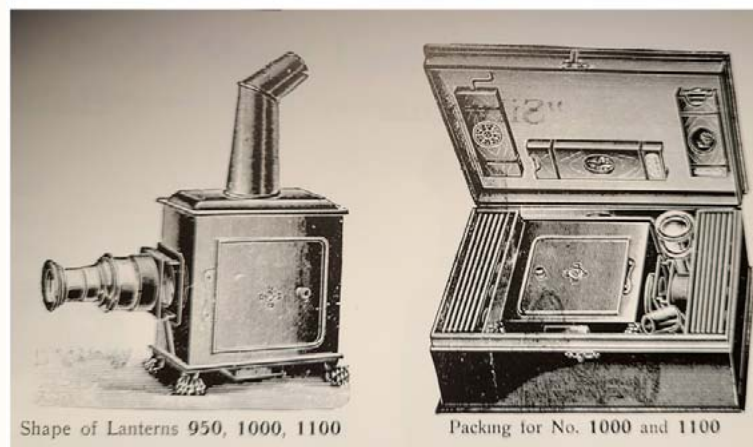
From Karl Link

Larry,

The collection of wood framed lantern slides you have go with any of the large size toy lanterns typically from Germany. These large sized toy lanterns are far less common than "the usual" medium sized ones you find everywhere.

As David already pointed out, Bing, EP, and others like Jean Schoenner, made toy lanterns in several sizes, sometimes up to seven, all the way from XS to XL. The slides for some of these toy lanterns can be either glass or wood framed.

Wood framed chromatropes for example were made by Bing in the following widths: 35, 40, 45, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100 mm. Wood framed Lever slides and Revolving Picture slides were available in the same sizes, except they started at width 40mm and went up from there in the same steps as the chromatropes above.



Typical toy lanterns which will work with your slides are for example:

Eos, Aurora, Pharos, Faust, Mephisto, Famulus, Silvana, Helios, Eden, Diana, and possibly more, all made by Bing.

These names are taken from the 1906 Bing catalog and won't help you much when looking for them on eBay.

Those by EP with names like Solid, Standard, Acme, Triumph, Gloria, Helios, and Prophet are a little easier to find by name, probably because EP labeled them better.

If you look for some of the toy lanterns by Carette, Jean Schoenner, and other makers, names probably won't help you finding one that will fit your slides.

What you need to look for is a toy lantern that is large, or even extra large, or at least larger than the usual size. Then you need to ask for the slide holder size, that is what width will that large toy lantern accommodate. You need the size of the wood frame holding

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Toy Lantern Slide Question in November Epub continued

part, not the glass slide holding part, if there are two parts to the slide holder.

Based on the measurements you gave in the epub you need mostly a 2-3/8 in. width size, which is approximately 60mm. The next size up from that for Bing and EP toy lanterns is 2-3/4 in. or 70mm wood frame width. So one, perhaps two larger toy lanterns and you should have all your slides covered .

I am attaching a few pictures from the 1906 Bing catalog and Hrabalek's book on toy lanterns (it's in German) as examples for toy lanterns with slides in wood frames similar to yours.

Best wishes, Karl



Order New Magic Lantern Book

Dear Friends,
I'm delighted to tell you that my new book is now in print.

Magic Lantern Art: The American Screen's First Great Narrative Artist, Joseph Boggs Beale

Magic Lantern Art is a scholarly book, written in an informal style—perfect for anyone interested in the magic lantern, early cinema, or American Art—320 engrossing pages with 575 full color pictures.

“One of the most important books ever written on the origins of cinema.”

*Gary Rhodes, Ph. D., author of *The Perils of Moviegoing in America**

“Essential for anyone interested in narrative art.”

Ryan Linkof, Ph. D., Curator, The Lucas Museum of Narrative Art

Magic Lantern Art celebrates the life and artistry of cinema pioneer, Joseph Boggs Beale (1841-1926). Beale was America's premier artist creating images for magic lantern shows—the projected performances that gave birth to the movies. His 2,000+ lantern illustrations were manufactured into story-telling slides that were seen and admired by millions a year. Almost single-handedly, he created American screen entertainment for the generation before the movies, pioneering narrative art techniques that later appeared on the nation's cinema screens.

**To order a signed soft-cover copy, send \$48 (USA only) with your address, to
Terry Borton, 443 Crosslands Dr., Kennett Square, PA 19348**

Copies of **Magic Lantern Art** will arrive here from China about Jan. 15, so, sadly, I can't get them to you by Christmas. They will also be available on Amazon, at your bookstore, or direct from Indiana University Press.

Terry Borton
tborton@magiclanternshows.com

Electro Radiant Magic Lantern No 3

From Karen Martin Jefferson
kym5@mac.com

To Whom It May Concern:

My deceased father-in-law was born in 1904 and had a Magic Lantern which may have first belonged to his father, and it is now on my possession. It has a Patent from 1883.

I've enclosed pictures of the lantern and its parts and the slides. Do you know of anyone or any museum that would be interested in these?

I am appreciative of your time and expertise to my request.

Karen Jefferson
951 809 9882
Venice, FL

David,

Thanks for sharing your research. I would appreciate your putting it in one of your monthly publications for someone who would enjoy having it.

Karen



From David Evans

It is basically a toy - they even marketed it to children, it says in your booklet. Fine box though! Having looked up a few things, I can tell you that it was manufactured by the World Manufacturing Co and wholesaled through Peck and Snyder of New York, which was probably the name on your book when it had a cover. Yours seems to be a No. 3.

David



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Electro Radiant Magic Lantern No 3 continued

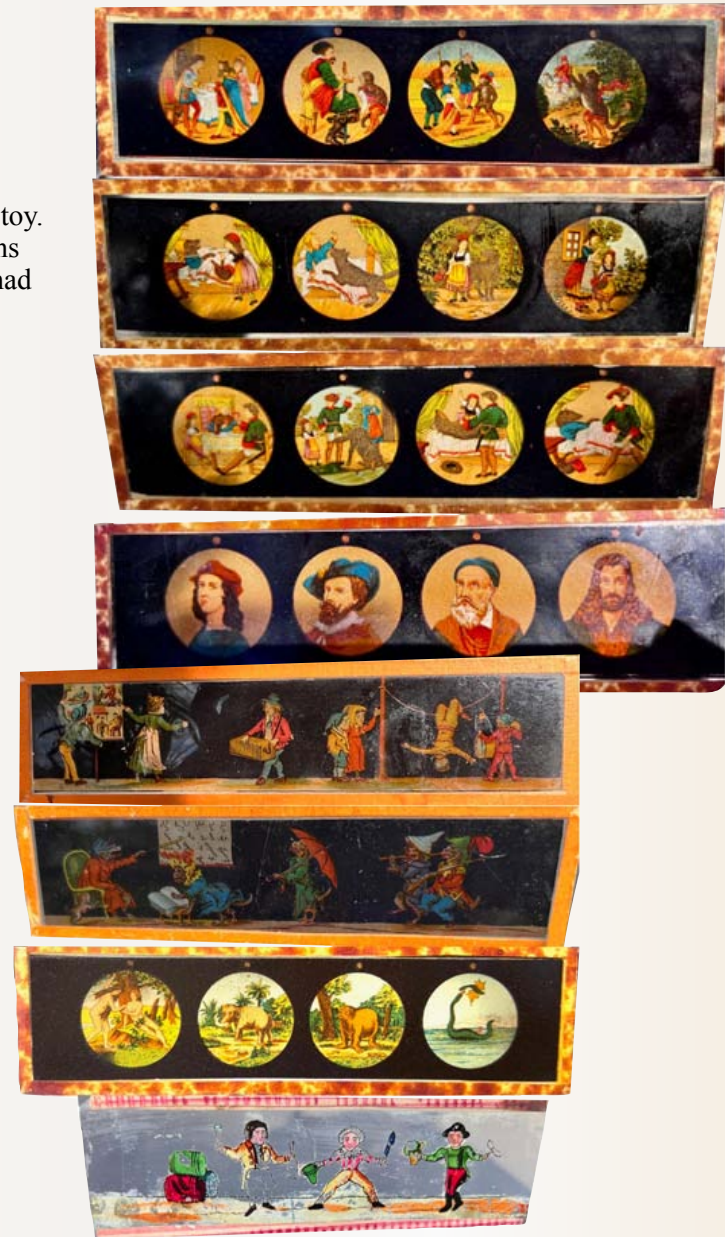
David,

The box is definitely original. Everything fits into it perfectly. Perhaps it is not a toy. The catalog is 40 pages and describes Magic Lanterns #'s 1, 2, 3, with descriptions and pictures and #4 with only a description. It is missing a cover page if it ever had one. I've attached Page 1, 2, 3, 24 & 25. You may list it as "Open to Offers"

Thanks for your interest and help.

Katen Jefferson

Please send you
offers to
**Karen Martin
Jefferson**
kym5@mac.com



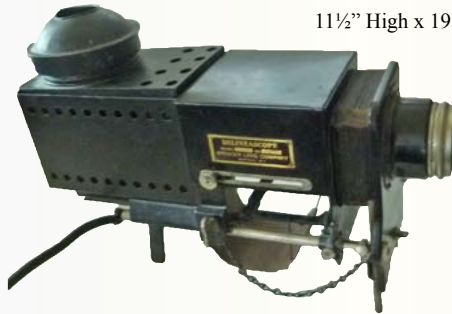


Lantern For Sale

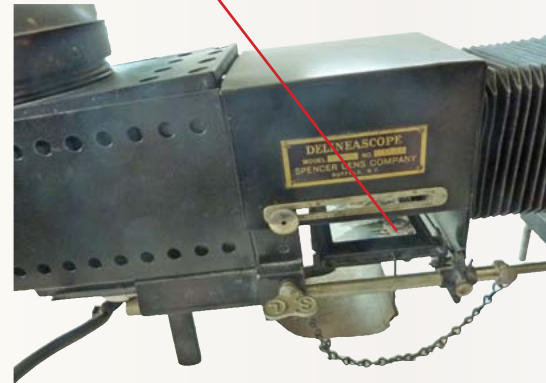
Delineascope Model H

by The Spencer Lens Co. Buffalo NY

11½" High x 19½" long x 7½" wide



Unique slide Carrier



Ask About Magic Lantern Books for Sale Contact

Larry Cederblom
designerlc@comcast.net



A Big Thank You to the following:

Janelle Blankenship
Terry Borton
David Evans
Karen Martin Jefferson
Karl Link
Brian Rogers
Randall Styx

for contributing
to this months issue.